

Intro to Linocuts

with Teaching Artist Amber Kaiser
Art Club for Kids – 2020 Spring Semester

Lesson #1 Discovering textures in relief printmaking-

This is a good exercise for those already familiar and a good introduction for those starting with printmaking for the first time.

TOOLS

Flat Styrofoam (cut from a plate or tray)

Pen or Pencil

Large sheet of **Newsprint**

Printing Paper (or any heavy paper)

Brayer

Plexiglass or other smooth, flat surface

Water-based **Printing Ink**

Soap and Water

Plate work

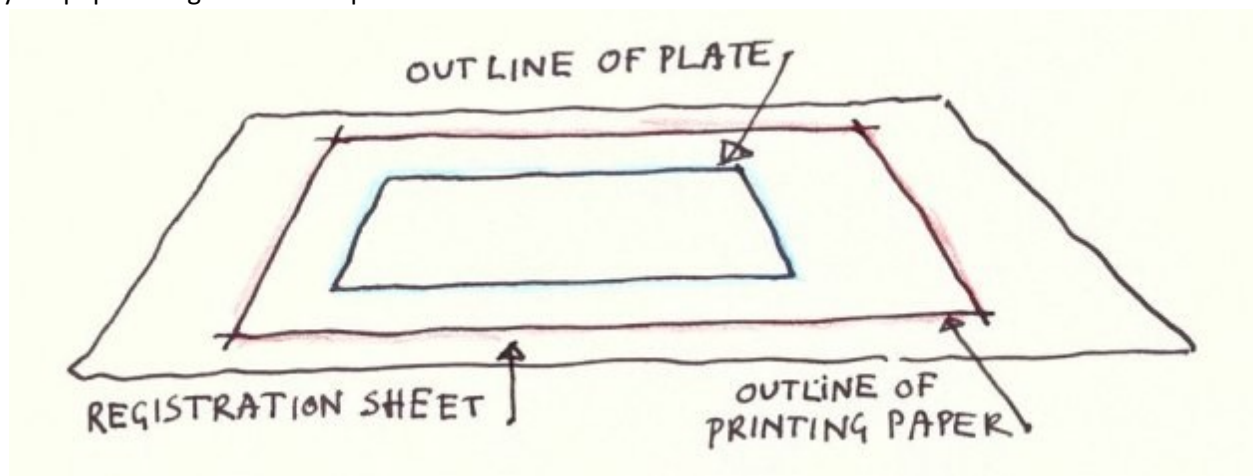
We begin with a surface to carve on. Commonly called your “Plate” In this lesson we will be using Styrofoam as your plate. It is already cut down to size and what I would like for you to do, with slight pressure with a pencil or pen, draw into the surface. You are creating a raised and recessed surface for the ink to be rolled onto. For the subject matter I would like for you to explore textures such as stippling, cross hatching, shapes, lines and patterns. Your lines that you make when printed will be the white of the paper. All raised surfaces will be the color of the ink.

Clean hands paper prep

When you are satisfied with your plate, you will need to make a “registration” and cut down your paper.

Your paper should be larger than your plate for our purposes in this lesson. You will want to measure your plate and then add 1-2 inches (your preference) to every side. Your image will be printed in the center of the paper. *Example: if your plate is 4”x6” your paper will be 6”x8” or larger- as long as the sides are equal distance from the plate.*

After paper is prepped, you will create a “Registration” This will let you know how to lay out your plate and paper. 1. Start with a large sheet of newsprint. 2. Trace your paper in the middle of newsprint and remove. 3. Place your un-inked plate in the middle of the outlined paper boundaries. Find the center and trace the outside edges. You now know where you will lay your plate, once inked and then where your paper will go once on top of it.



Intro to Linocuts

with Teaching Artist Amber Kaiser
Art Club for Kids – 2020 Spring Semester

Inking your plate

When your paper is completely prepped, we begin inking! On a clean surface--you can use Plexi glass, a mirror, an old picture frame glass. (wrap the sides in painter's tape to avoid sharp edges!) You will start near the top of the surface to get the ink out. Remember you can always get more but you can't put it back. This is called the "ink well" from here you take your "brayer" which is the roller you apply the ink with and pull down a little bit of ink at a time. Make sure the brayer is coated all the way around. The ink on your inking surface should have a sandpaper like texture to it.

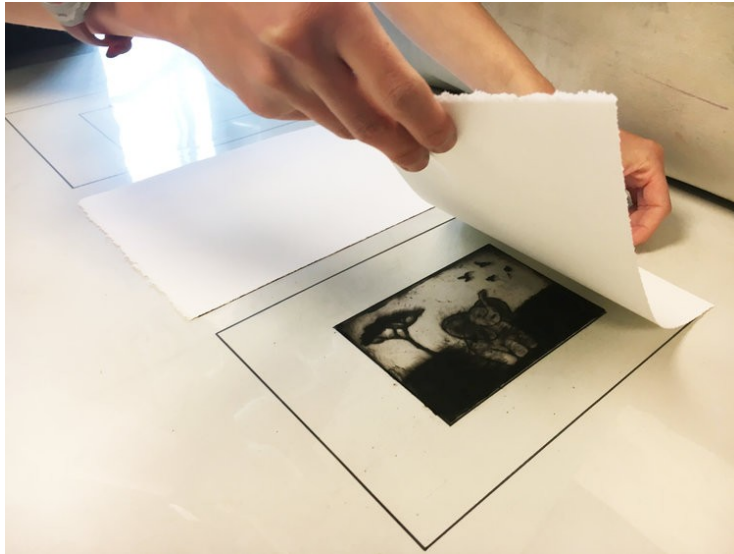
if your ink is too thick on the brayer it will fill in the detailed lines on your plate. **



Intro to Linocuts

with Teaching Artist Amber Kaiser
Art Club for Kids – 2020 Spring Semester

Printing



Once your plate is evenly inked (the surface of your plate should be that same sandpaper texture) set it on your registration. Get the larger piece of paper that was outlined on the registration and lay it over your plate. Hold down with one hand while gently rubbing the surface with a flat palm of your hand.

When you feel you have applied enough even pressure over the entire surface of the paper, you can lift from one side to the other to reveal your image!

Troubleshooting

- If your image looks like it is too light, add more thin layers of ink to the plate.
- If there is too much ink, gently wipe off the ink from the plate with a household cleaner and go back over your lines to make them a bit deeper. There also might be too much ink being applied.
- It's better to do several thin layers of ink rather than one thick, goopy layer

A note from the Instructor:

I hope this finds you well. I am looking forward to being back in the classroom with all of you, but in the interim, I have prepared three lesson plans for you to continue your practices at home. I hope you have fun with this project. Keep these instructions handy as we will be using these same techniques in next lesson where we will use carving tools and linoleum.

-Amber